

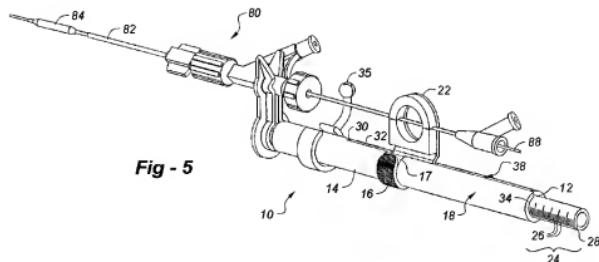
REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated May 24, 2010 (hereinafter, "Office Action") has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments considered. Claims 1-8 and 10-30 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 6, 7, 13, 15, 17-20, 25, and 28 are withdrawn. Claims 1 and 11 are amended herein support for which can be found in the originally filed application at, for example, page 10, lines 7-27 and FIG. 7. Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced, and respectfully request entry of the amendments.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10-12, 14, 16, 21-23, 26, 27, 29, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,450,976 to Korotko et al. (hereinafter, "Korotko"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended independent claims 1 and 11 recite an attachment member including a gripping jaw comprising an attachment side and a pair of lever members positioned to selectively open the gripping jaw.



The Office Action alleges that Korotko teaches "an attachment member (35)." (Office Action, p. 3.) Korotko, however, does not teach an attachment member as recited in claims 1 and

11 that comprises an attachment side and a pair of lever members positioned to selectively open the gripping jaw. As illustrated in FIG. 5 of Korotko, reproduced above, the guidewire hook 35 is clipped onto the outer barrel 14 by pressing the open portion of the hook 35 against the outer barrel 14 and forcing the outer barrel into the central portion of the hook 35. As such, the guidewire hook 35 does not include the claimed feature.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Korotko. Dependent claims 3-5, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 21-23, 26, 27, 29, and 30 are patentable because they depend from a patentable independent claim, and also because they recite features not shown or described by the cited art. Therefore, Applicants request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korotko in view of USPN 4,976,721 to Blasnik et al. (hereinafter, “Blasnik”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Without conceding the assertions made in the Office Action with respect to the allegedly disclosed subject matter, Applicants submit that the rejected claim depends from a patentable independent claim, in view of the above, and is therefore patentable. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Conclusion

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

It is noted that the remarks herein do not constitute, nor are they intended to be, an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between the cited references and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed herein are presented solely by way of example. Consistent with the foregoing, the discussion herein should not be construed to prejudice or foreclose future consideration by Applicants of additional or alternative distinctions between the claims of the present application and the references cited by the Examiner and/or the merits of additional or alternative arguments.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2191, under Order No. 101671.0010P from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: July 23, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Todd W. Wight/
Todd W. Wight
Registration No.: 45,218
RUTAN & TUCKER LLP
611 Anton Boulevard, Suite 1400
Costa Mesa, California 92626
(714) 641-5100
Patents@Rutan.com